

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SS-15 EB-07 CU-02 AID-05 OES-03

COME-00 TRSE-00 INT-05 AGR-05 NSC-05 L-03 H-02 ABF-01

OMB-01 FS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 PA-01

USIA-06 SP-02 /093 W

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R 081325Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 117

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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GENEVA FOR SAUNDERS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: USTSJC, TS

SUBJ: US-TUNISIAN JOINT COMMISSION

REF: STATE 207256

1. IN DISCUSSION RELEVANT PORTIONS OF REFTTEL, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MOFA) OFFICIAL STATED GOT KEEPING OCT 13 AND 14 OPEN FOR POSSIBLE JOINT COMMISSION MEETINGS AS WELL AS PERIOD OCT 8-11 (OCTOBER 7 NOW DECLARED HOLIDAY). HE SAID PERIOD AFTER OCT 15 (ALSO HOLIDAY) THROUGH END OF YEAR WOULD POSE SCHEDULING DIFFICULTIES BECAUSE OF NUMEROUS JOINT COMMISSION MEETINGS TO BE HELD WITH SEVERAL COUNTRIES. FOR EXAMPLE, VARIOUS FRANCE-TUNISIAN JOINT SUBCOMMISSIONS, INVOLVING TUNISIAN OFFICIALS FROM SEVERAL MINISTRIES, TO MEET BEGINNING OCT 16 POSSIBLY THROUGH 22. MEETINGS WITH SOME OF OTHER COUNTRIES FOR END OF YEAR PERIOD NOT YET FIRM AND HE HOPED WE COULD ADVISE GOT OF CONVENIENT DATES FOR U.S. JOINT COMMISSION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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2. HOWEVER, MIN PLAN ZAANOUNI INFORMED EMB OFF THAT

UNDER SECY ROBINSON TOLD HIM TWO DAYS AGO HE COULD ATTEND PART OF MEETINGS OF US-TUNISIAN JOINT COMMISSION BEGINNING OCT 17 AND CLOSING OCT 20. ZAAOUNI ADMITTED HE HAD NOT YET HAD TIME COORDINATE DATE WITH OTHER TUNISIAN MINISTRIES. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST, SINCE AMBASSADOR EXPECTS CALL ON ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER NEXT DAY OR SO.

3. RE PARA 11 REFTEL, MOFA OFFICIAL INDICATED PROBLEM IS THAT GOT HAS NO CONFERENCE ROOM UNDER ITS CONTROL WITH SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION FACILITIES AND NO PROFESSIONAL SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETERS ON STAFF. CANNOT USE EXISTING CONFERENCE ROOMS IN TUNIS HOTELS AND OUTSIDE PROFESSIONAL INTERPRETERS (ESPECIALLY IF THEY ARE NOT TUNISIAN NATIONALS) FOR SECURITY AND PRESTIGE REASONS. HOWEVER, MOFA TENTATIVELY PLANS INSTALL RENTED SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION EQUIPMENT IN ONE OF ITS PRINCIPAL CONFERENCE ROOMS FOR USE BY FULL JOINT COMMISSION AND ONE SUBCOMMISSION. MOFA ALSO SEEKING DETERMINE WHETHER TWO TUNISIAN PROFESSIONAL INTERPRETERS WOULD BE AVAILABLE ON CONTRACT BASIS. MOFA PROMISED INFORM US IF THESE ARRANGEMENT POSSIBLE. MOFA BELIEVES MAY BE NECESSARY HAVE ONE SUBCOMMISSION WITH NONPROFESSIONAL CONSECUTIVE INTERPRETERS. FROM PAST EXPERIENCE WITH TRADE SEMINARS, EMBASSY CAN VOUCH AS TO LOCAL SCARCITY OF PROFESSIONAL INTERPRETING TALENT AND IT IS NECESSARY TO BOOK EQUIPMENT AND INTERPRETERS AS LONG IN ADVANCE AS POSSIBLE.

4. EMBASSY WILL COMMENT ON OTHER POINTS REFTEL LATER THIS WEEK.
SEELYE

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